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Population And Economy Study Update

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POPULATION AND ECONOMY STUDY UPDATE
McDOWELL COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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McDowell County, North Carolina

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POPULATION AND ECONOMY STUDY UPDATE

McDOWELL COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

April, 1974

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CHAPTER I

GENERAL INFORMATION

McDowell County, North Carolina, with 436¹ square miles in 1970, ranked sixtieth in total area among North Carolina's one hundred counties. The county is located in Western North Carolina. The northern and western portions of the county lie in the Blue Ridge Mountain, while the southern and eastern areas are typical of the terrain found in the piedmont of North Carolina. The county is bounded on the north by Avery County, on the northwest by Yancey and Mitchell Counties, on the east by Burke County, on the south by Rutherford County and on the west by Buncombe County (see Map 1).

HISTORY

In 1842 McDowell County was formed from an area which was originally part of Rutherford and Burke Counties. The County was named in honor of Colonel Joseph McDowell, a colonel in the militia, a physician, and a legislator -- the first U. S. Congressman from Western North Carolina.

The first meeting for the new county was held in Jonathan Carson's home. This first "courthouse" which was built about 1810 is still standing and has been restored as a historic site.

TOPOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL FEATURES

McDowell County lies in two major physiographic regions: the northern and western portions of the county containing Old Fort lie in the Blue Ridge Province of the Appalachian Complex and the eastern and western portions of

¹ In 1960 the Census Bureau reported 442 square miles as the current size of the County. Since that time adjustments have been made for errors in previous measurements and to compensate for the physical shifting of rivers and other bodies of water.

the county containing Marion, lie in the Piedmont Province of the Appalachian Complex.

The central and southeastern parts of the county have a prevailing slope of less than ten percent (10%). This area of the county has experienced more intense development than the remaining portion of the county which has a prevailing slope in excess of twenty percent (20%).

The highest point in the county is Pinnacle Mountain (5,665 feet) on the western edge of the county. This mountain also serves as the juncture point for Buncombe, Yancey, and McDowell County boundary lines.

The lowest point is diagonally across the county on the southeast corner of Cane Creek where the elevation is 980 feet. The majority of the county occupies elevations between one-thousand (1,000) and two-thousand (2,000) feet.

With the Eastern Continental Divide falling along its northwestern boundary, surface water in McDowell County flows in an easterly and southerly direction, all major streams, except Second Broad River and Cove Creek, drain into the Catawba River.

CLIMATE

The annual mean temperature of McDowell County is 59.9 degrees. The mean temperature in July is 76.1 degrees and in January, 37.9 degrees. Normal rainfall is 52.29 inches with an average growing season of one-hundred and ninety-two days (192).

TRANSPORTATION

The county is traversed by Highways U. S. 70 and I-40 (east and west) and N. C. 226 and U. S. 221 (north and south). In 1972 the county contained 133.93 miles of primary roads and 449.70 miles of secondary roads.

PLANNING PROGRAM

It is generally recognized that comprehensive planning can help to alleviate and avoid problems resulting from rapidly expanding urban development. The patterns of haphazard growth frequently seen in North Carolina stem from a variety of factors including subdivision development, commercial enterprises lining the highways, and industrial development seeking facilities outside the cities and towns. Planning helps communities and municipalities, counties and regions prepare for the future in terms of roads, schools, recreation, public facilities, and other features.

Recognizing the necessity of planning for the orderly growth and development of the economic, physical and human resources of McDowell County, the McDowell County Board of Commissioners secured funds and technical assistance to undertake a long range planning program for the county. The planning process is guided by the McDowell County Planning Board appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The Planning Board has in past years undertaken the following reports and studies to assist in the long range development plans for McDowell County:

Population and Economy, McDowell County	1967
McDowell County Land Development Plan	1967
McDowell County, Zoning Ordinance*	1967
Subdivision Regulations, McDowell County*	1967
Governmental Efficiency Study, McDowell County	1970
Housing Study, McDowell County	1971
Community Facilities Plan, and Recreation Plan, McDowell County	1971
Housing Element Update, McDowell County	1972
Environmental Survey and Plan, McDowell County	1972
Housing Work Element, McDowell County	1973

*
Not Adopted.

A fundamental element of a county's comprehensive planning program is the Population and Economy Study. The role of this study is to review, analyze and project such factors as population trends, changing social and economic characteristics, and growth indicators. This report begins a second phase in McDowell County's planning program -- the review and update of previous planning efforts. This study is an update of the 1967 Population and Economy Study.

CHAPTER II

THE POPULATION

POPULATION CHANGE

McDowell County, with 30,648 people in 1970, ranked fifty-first in population among North Carolina's 100 counties. When the county was formed in 1842, it had 6,246 inhabitants.¹ Since that time the county has experienced a population increase in each decade. However, the rate of growth prior to 1960 continually decreased from a high of 23.8 percent between 1910 and 1920 and to a low of 4.0 percent between 1950 and 1960 (see Figure 1). During the decade of 1960 to 1970 this trend reversed and the population increased 14.6 percent, a rate which exceeded that of Marion, Old Fort, the Asheville Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, and the twenty counties of Western North Carolina (see Table 1).

The growth patterns for the municipalities of Old Fort and Marion are not typical of the county. Marion's growth rate has varied from a 38.3 percent increase between 1920 and 1930 to a 5.2 percent decrease between 1940 and 1950; Old Fort's growth rate varied from a 19.7 percent increase between 1920 and 1930 to a 14.1 percent decrease between 1960 and 1970.

FARM AND NON-FARM POPULATION

McDowell County has only one urban place (a place of more than 2,500 population according to the United States Census) and that is the City of Marion. All other population in the County is classified as rural. However, the urban-rural breakdown has little meaning now because many people who live outside urban places are not even part-time farmers and some who live inside urban places are farmers.

¹ Sharpe, A New Geography, p. 1955.

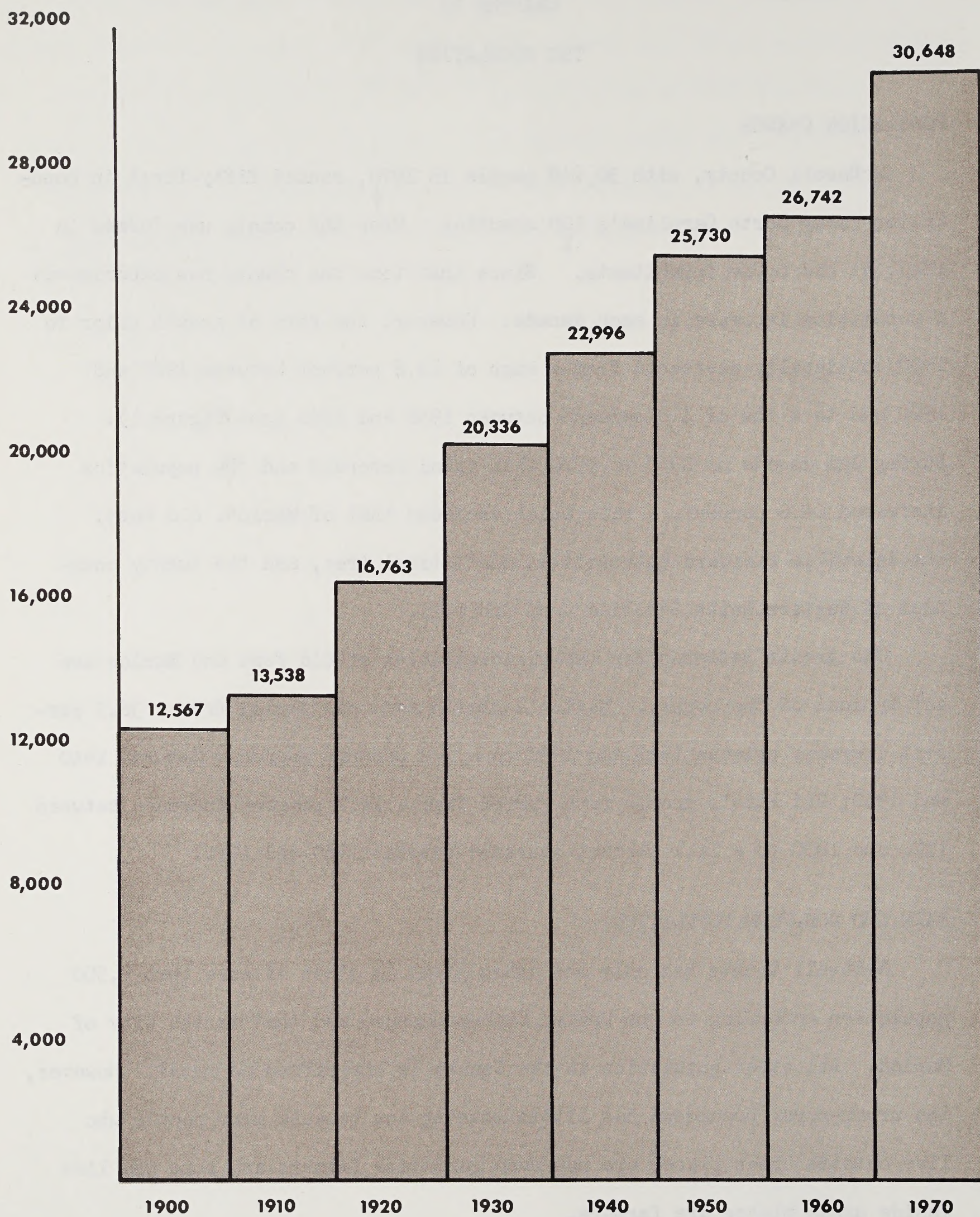


Figure 1. Graph of Population of McDowell County 1900 Through 1970.

TABLE 1

POPULATION CHANGE 1910-1970
MCDOWELL COUNTY AND SELECTED AREAS

Year	Marion	Old Fort	McDowell County	Asheville SMSA	Western ^a North Carolina	North Carolina
1900	NA	NA	12,567	44,288	277,525	1,893,810
1910	1,519	778	13,538	49,798	305,707	2,206,287
% Change	-	-	7.73	12.4	10.2	16.5
As a % of State	.07	.04	.61	2.3	13.9	
1920	1,784	931	16,763	64,148	351,047	2,559,123
% Change	17.4	19.7	23.8	28.8	14.8	16.0
As a % of State	.07	.03	.65	2.5	13.7	
1930	2,467	866	20,336	97,937	426,543	3,170,276
% Change	38.3	-7.0	21.3	52.7	21.5	23.9
As a % of State	.08	.03	.64	3.1	13.1	
1940	2,889	774	22,996	108,755	490,013	3,571,623
% Change	17.1	-10.6	13.1	11.0	14.9	12.7
As a % of State	.08	.02	.64	3.0	13.7	
1950	2,740	771	25,720	124,403	519,455	4,061,929
% Change	-5.2	-.4	11.8	14.4	6.0	13.7
As a % of State	.07	.02	.63	3.1	12.8	
1960	3,345	787	26,742	130,074	522,081	4,556,155
% Change	22.1	2.1	4.0	4.5	0.5	12.2
As a % of State	.07	.02	.59	2.9	11.5	
1970	3,335	676	30,648	145,056	537,668	5,082,059
% Change	-0.3	-14.1	14.6	11.5	2.99	11.5
As a % of State	.07	.01	.60	2.9	10.6	

NA - Not Available

^a Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, McDowell, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey Counties.

SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1910-1970.

In 1960, the farm population comprised about 30 percent of the total population of McDowell County. In 1970 the farm population was only 17 percent of the total.

Even though agriculture has lost its influence, the county has retained a rural character. In 1970, the county's 30,648 inhabitants created a population density of only 69.3 persons per square mile.

POPULATION TRENDS BY TOWNSHIP

Table 2 illustrates population changes for each township in McDowell County. From 1910 to 1970 the population of Brackett Township declined by 32 persons. This was the only township which lost population during the decade. A marked increase in population occurred in Nebo township, 57.5 percent. Montford Cove experienced a substantial increase of 25.1 percent. Moderate increases occurred in Higgins Township with an increase of 23.1 percent; Glenwood, 12.4 percent; Old Fort, 11.2 percent, and Marion with a 10.1 percent increase. Low growth in population occurred in North Cove, Crooked Creek and Dysartsville Townships (see Figure 2).

MIGRATION TRENDS

Population growth occurs through two basic elements -- natural increase and net migration. Natural increase of an area is determined by the difference between the number of births and the number of deaths. Net migration is the difference between persons in-migrating into a particular area and the persons out-migrating from that area.

From 1950 to 1960 McDowell County's population growth was attributable solely to natural increase since out-migration occurred during the period. However, during the decade from 1960 to 1970, the county had both natural

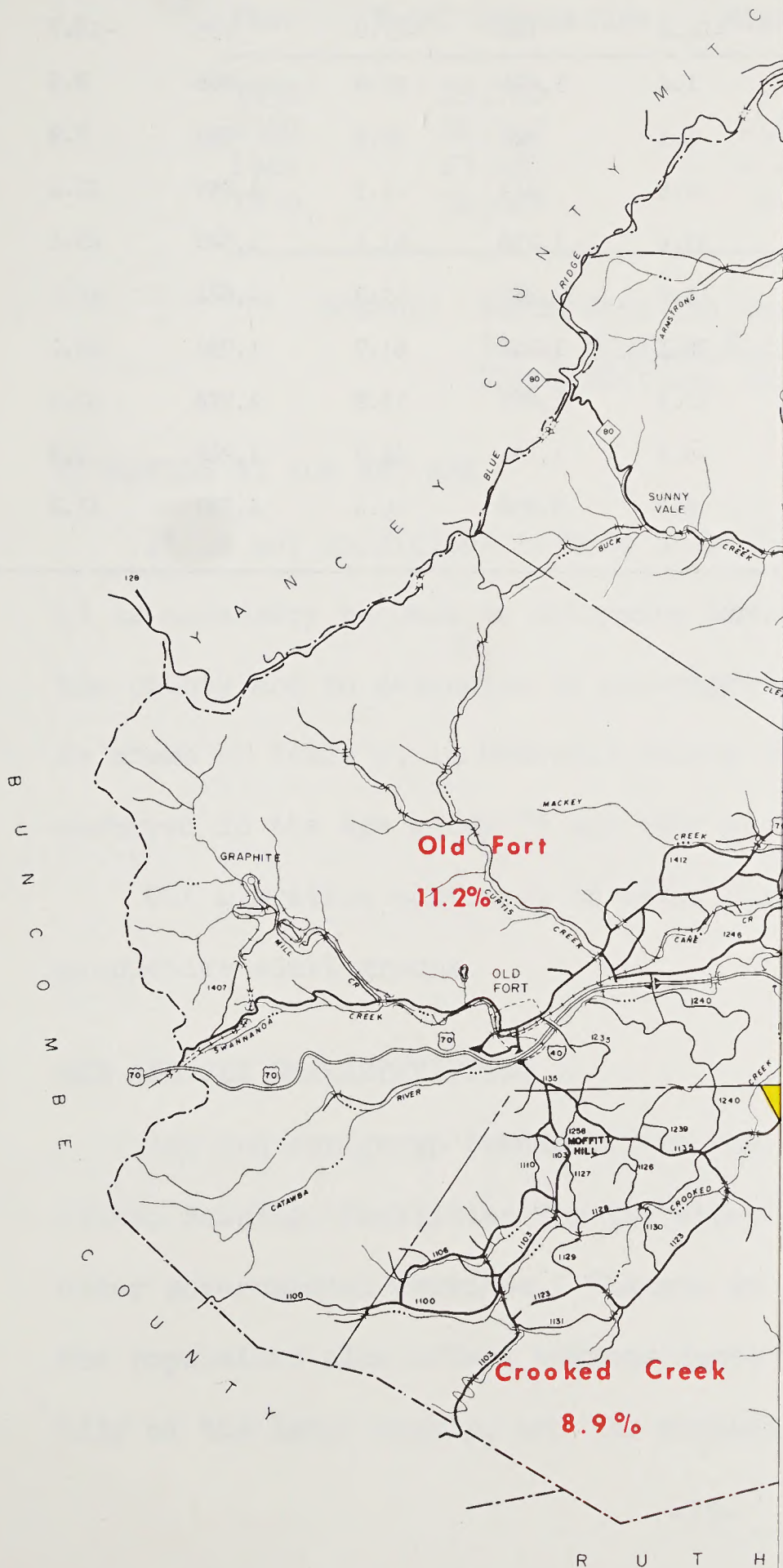


FIGURE 2. PRECENT POP
1960-1970

Township	1910	1920	% Change 1910-1920
Brackett	362	303	-16.3
Crooked Creek	699	824	17.9
Dysartsville	1,145	930	18.8
Glenwood	*	515	-
Higgins	520*	240	-
Marion	4,430*	7,176	-
Montford Cove	832*	504	-
Nebo	934	934	0
North Cove	1,509	1,698	12.5
Old Fort	2,465	2,962	20.2

*Glenwood township organized from par

SOURCE: U. S. Census of P

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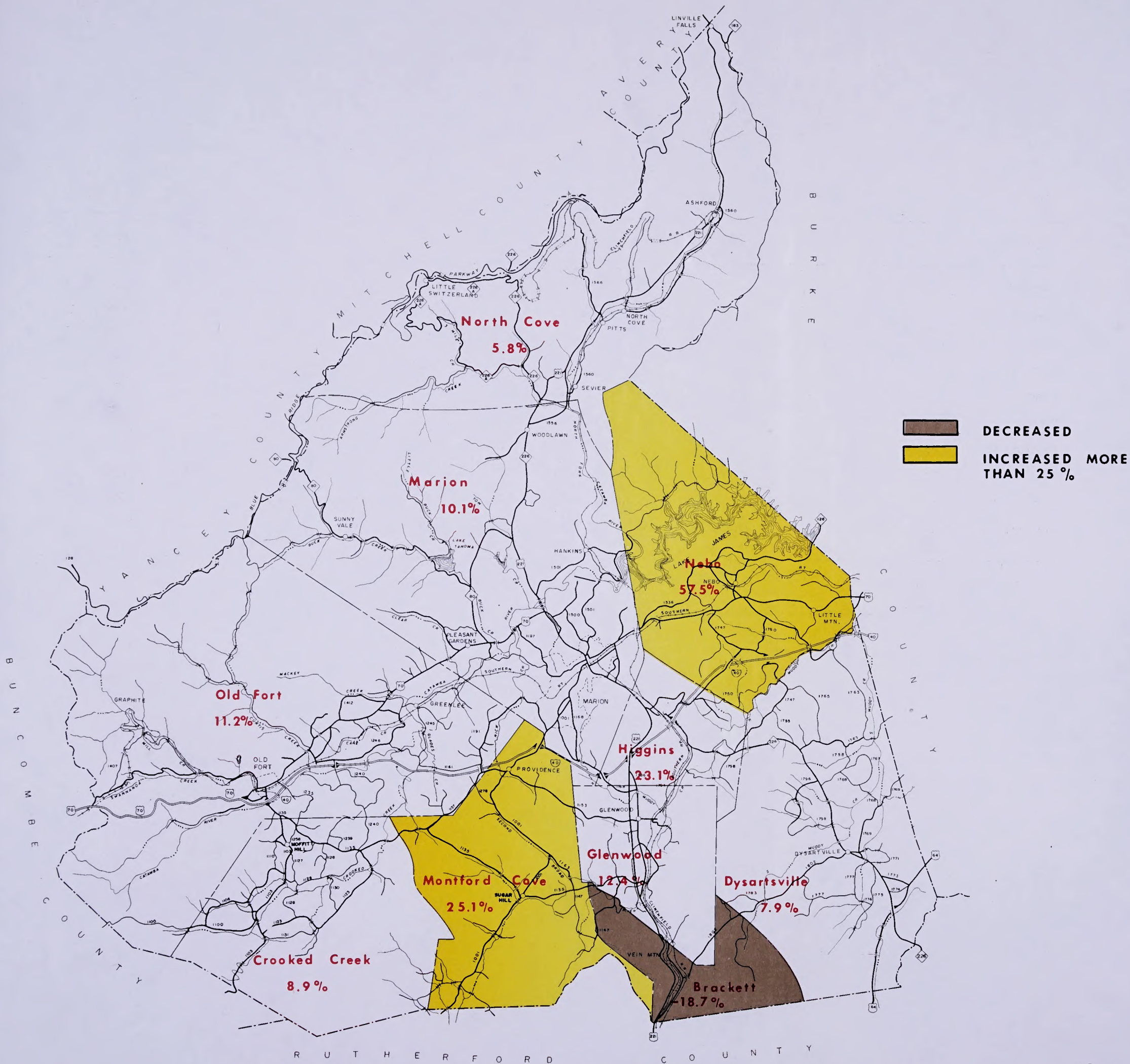


FIGURE 2. PRESENT POPULATION CHANGE, BY TOWNSHIP McDOWELL COUNTY
1960-1970

TABLE 2
POPULATION OF McDOWELL COUNTY
BY COUNTY SUBDIVISION
1910-1970

1930	% Change 1920-1930	1940	% Change 1930-1940	1950	% Change 1940-1950	1960	% Change 1950-1960	1970	% Change 1960-1970
261	-13.9	264	1.1	200	-24.2	166	-17.0	135	-18.7
968	17.5	1,221	26.1	1,238	1.4	1,621	30.9	1,766	8.9
717	-22.9	823	14.8	832	1.1	920	10.6	993	7.9
679	31.8	659	-2.9	928	40.8	942	-1.5	1,059	12.4
282	17.5	574	103.5	767	33.6	1,236	61.1	1,522	23.1
10,899	51.9	12,534	15.0	14,031	11.9	13,287	-5.3	14,624	10.1
566	12.3	745	31.6	954	28.1	1,543	61.7	1,930	25.1
928	-.6	1,151	24.0	1,638	42.3	1,897	15.8	2,978	57.5
1,570	-7.5	1,661	5.8	1,550	-6.7	1,174	24.3	1,242	5.8
3,466	17.0	3,364	-2.9	3,582	6.5	3,956	10.4	4,399	11.2

ts of Higgins, Marion, and Montford Cove townships after 1910.

opulation, 1910-1970.

increase and in-migration which accelerated the growth rate. Table 3 illustrates the components of population increase for the period from 1950 to 1970.

TABLE 3
COMPONENTS OF POPULATION
CHANGE, McDOWELL COUNTY
1950-1970

Year	Total Population	Migration	Natural Increase
1950	25,720		
1960	26,742	-16.0%	20.0%
1965	27,261	- 4.9%	6.85
1970	30,648	6.19	6.23

SOURCE: North Carolina Department of Administration, Profile North Carolina Counties. Third Edition, January, 1973.

MIGRATION BY AGE AND SEX

It is not sufficient to know only that in-migration has occurred, but it is necessary as well to determine the age and sex of those who entered the county and to determine if out-migration is occurring in any age group. As shown by Table 4, in McDowell County the highest in-migration rates occurred in the age group 75 and over and the 30-34 group.

Out migration continues to occur for both males and females in the young productive adult groups.

AGE AND SEX CHARACTERISTICS

Age and sex group trends affect the need for schools, recreation facilities, housing, facilities for the elderly, medical care, utilities and other governmental services. Changes in the age and sex composition of the population also affect various types of retail sales, quality and quantity of the labor supply, and the economic productivity of the county.

TABLE 2
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1910-1970

Township	1910	1920	% Change 1910-1920	1930	% Change 1920-1930	1940	% Change 1930-1940	1950	% Change 1940-1950	1960	% Change 1950-1960	1970	% Change 1960-1970
Brackett	362	303	-16.3	261	-13.9	264	1.1	200	-24.2	166	-17.0	135	-18.7
Crooked Creek	699	824	17.9	968	17.5	1,221	26.1	1,238	1.4	1,621	30.9	1,766	8.9
Dysartsville	1,145	930	18.8	717	-22.9	823	14.8	832	1.1	920	10.6	993	7.9
Glenwood	*	515	-	679	31.8	659	-2.9	928	40.8	942	-1.5	1,059	12.4
Higgins	520*	240	-	282	17.5	574	103.5	767	33.6	1,236	61.1	1,522	23.1
Marion	4,430*	7,176	-	10,899	51.9	12,534	15.0	14,031	11.9	13,287	-5.3	14,624	10.1
Montford Cove	832*	504	-	566	12.3	745	31.6	954	28.1	1,543	61.7	1,930	25.1
Nebo	934	934	0	928	-.6	1,151	24.0	1,638	42.3	1,897	15.8	2,978	57.5
North Cove	1,509	1,698	12.5	1,570	-7.5	1,661	5.8	1,550	-6.7	1,174	24.3	1,242	5.8
Old Fort	2,465	2,962	20.2	3,466	17.0	3,364	-2.9	3,582	6.5	3,956	10.4	4,399	11.2

*Glenwood township organized from parts of Higgins, Marion, and Montford Cove townships after 1910.

SOURCE: U. S. Census of Population, 1910-1970.

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MIGRATION BY AGE AND SEX

It is not sufficient to know only that in-migration has occurred, but it is necessary as well to determine the age and sex of those who entered the county and to determine if out-migration is occurring in any age group. As shown by Table 4, in McDowell County the highest in-migration rates occurred in the age group 75 and over and the 30-34 group.

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TABLE 4

MIGRATION, 1950-1970
BY AGE AND SEX
McDOWELL COUNTY

Age Group	1950	1960	1970	Percent of 1950 Group Present in 1960	Percent of 1960 Group Present in 1970
MALE:					
Under 5	1,601	1,433	1,352		
5-9	1,435	1,501	1,450		111.8
10-14	1,388	1,476	1,602	92.2	94.5
15-19	1,170	1,176	1,419	82.0	67.2
20-24	981	775	992	55.8	83.9
25-29	988	769	987	65.7	120.0
30-34	842	899	930	91.6	109.6
35-39	874	897	843	90.8	104.3
40-44	763	801	938	95.1	102.8
45-49	620	723	922	82.7	103.5
50-54	536	703	829	92.1	98.3
55-59	436	563	711	90.8	87.9
60-64	325	438	618	81.7	84.6
65-69	310	376	476	86.2	79.2
70-74	230	261	347	80.3	
75 and over	247	329	433	106.1	115.2
FEMALE:					
Under 5	1,582	1,343	1,314		117.5
5-9	1,367	1,390	1,399		99.6
10-14	1,362	1,482	1,578	93.7	84.2
15-19	1,228	1,151	1,384	84.2	78.2
20-24	1,005	880	1,159	64.6	88.1
25-29	1,084	938	1,014	76.4	104.4
30-34	914	918	919	91.3	108.1
35-39	883	951	1,014	87.7	104.5
40-44	775	855	959	93.5	103.5
45-49	619	843	984	95.5	103.9
50-54	582	712	888	91.9	99.5
55-59	420	586	839	94.7	104.5
60-64	341	519	744	89.2	97.8
65-69	333	379	573	90.2	89.0
70-74	197	284	462	83.3	
75 and over	232	391	569	117.4	150.1

SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1950, 1960, 1970.

Table 5 and Figure 3 show trends by age and sex for McDowell County from 1950 to 1970.

The first correlation is between the children under the age of 10 and the adult group aged 20-40 years. The graph illustrates an inward shape at the children's section and significant concave or inward shape at the young adult years. Among the young age groups there is a decrease in the proportion of very young children; this decreasing birth rate trend is an indication that many young adult couples are limiting their family size.

The inward shape among the young adult group also indicates a strong tendency for out-migration, which would also affect the birth rate. The out-migration of young adults probably is a response to their perceiving and seeking economic opportunities elsewhere. Limited opportunities for the technically skilled, the shortage of local executive positions for the college graduate, limited opportunities for job advancement and the attracting force of more dynamic urban centers may have encouraged these young people to leave the county.

A second correlation is between the teenage groups and the 40-50 group. In this case, there is a significant percentage of teenagers as noted by the pyramid's outward bulge; these are the children of the adult group 40-50 years, which also has an outward flaring shape.

The elderly population is the last pattern to be considered. The county already has a large proportion of its population in this group--9.3 percent. In the future, the elderly will become a larger proportion of the total population. The curbing of the birth rate, the out-migration of young adults, and the increasing life span all seem to indicate a larger elderly population in coming years. Rendering social services and health care to

TABLE 5
POPULATION TRENDS
BY AGE AND SEX
1950-1970

Age Group	1950	M A L E		F E M A L E		
		1960	1970	1950	1960	1970
Under 5	1,601	1,433	1,352	1,582	1,343	1,314
5-9	1,435	1,501	1,450	1,367	1,390	1,399
10-14	1,388	1,476	1,602	1,362	1,482	1,578
15-19	1,170	1,176	1,419	1,228	1,151	1,384
20-24	981	775	992	1,005	880	1,159
25-29	988	769	987	1,084	938	1,014
30-34	842	899	930	914	918	919
35-39	874	897	843	883	951	1,014
40-44	763	801	938	775	855	959
45-49	620	723	922	619	843	984
50-54	536	703	829	582	712	888
55-59	436	563	711	420	586	839
60-64	325	438	618	341	519	744
65-69	310	376	476	333	379	573
70-74	230	261	347	197	284	462
75 and over	247	329	433	232	391	569

SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1950, 1960, 1970.

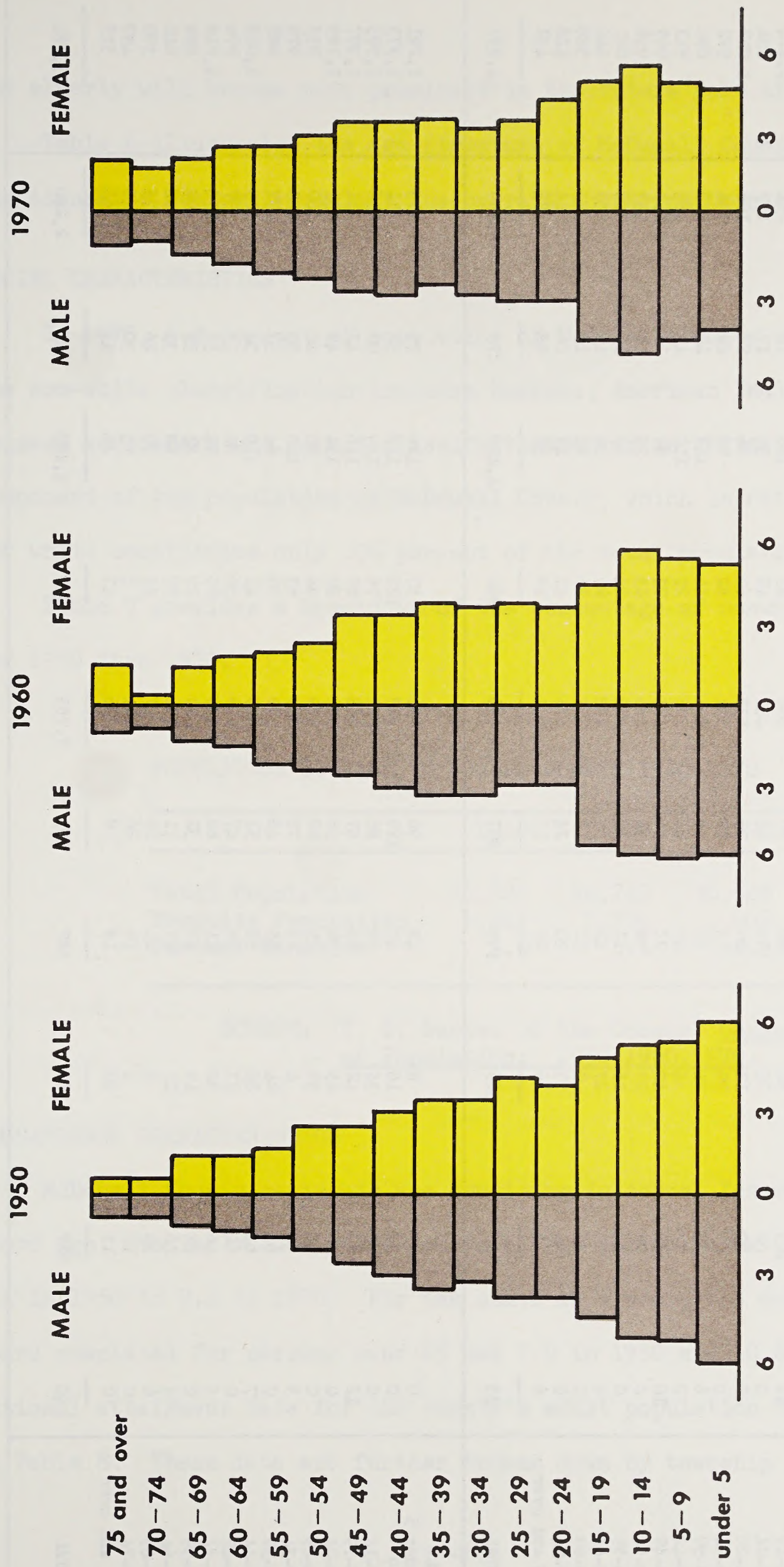


Figure 3. Percent of Population by Age and Sex
McDowell County 1950-1970.

TABLE 6

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

McDOWELL COUNTY, BY TOWNSHIPS

1970

Sex and Age	T O W N S H I P S										McDowell County
	Bruckett	Crooked Creek	Dysartsville	Glenwood	Higgins	Marion	Montford Cove	Nebo	North Cove	Old Fort	
MALE											
Under 5		110	35	39	88	619	81	128	39	193	1,332
5-9	0	69	34	78	102	614	56	157	62	219	1,391
10-14	0	111	17	65	105	771	119	165	61	235	1,649
15-19	11	103	32	80	99	660	83	165	17	224	1,474
20-24	0	62	26	25	48	481	47	96	17	152	954
25-29	0	90	12	39	76	533	60	76	22	104	1,012
30-34	0	63	29	25	58	381	82	76	22	136	872
35-39	6	35	24	30	56	401	41	143	29	127	892
40-44	0	57	4	47	64	402	21	110	43	165	913
45-49	10	50	40	24	56	473	73	91	25	113	955
50-54	0	75	27	38	36	465	63	78	41	133	956
55-59	0	24	15	11	37	322	24	63	16	109	621
60-64	0	29	27	42	5	298	20	50	12	65	548
65-69	0	26	0	12	12	217	26	21	19	55	388
70-74	0	24	17	20	28	175	47	47	26	44	428
75 and over	6	15	26	20	17	204	19	32	28	85	452
TOTAL	33	943	365	595	887	7,016	862	1,498	479	2,159	14,837
FEMALE											
Under 5		103	8	47	96	651	57	129	25	175	1,291
5-9	0	87	16	47	129	588	122	118	52	214	1,373
10-14	0	98	35	59	86	772	76	159	92	216	1,593
15-19	12	83	42	69	57	668	89	116	47	214	1,397
20-24	0	95	25	30	55	582	80	134	43	151	1,195
25-29	0	68	39	45	68	379	54	80	40	160	933
30-34	5	54	4	25	78	453	63	140	37	120	979
35-39	0	63	24	25	48	489	39	64	53	177	982
40-44	7	63	28	58	51	513	41	110	32	115	1,018
45-49	0	64	27	29	47	559	56	84	13	97	976
50-54	5	46	32	21	66	470	75	74	51	178	1,018
55-59	0	22	19	47	32	489	27	84	19	99	838
60-64	5	46	21	27	11	306	27	68	31	98	640
65-69	6	10	6	21	25	317	45	39	26	75	570
70-74	0	10	4	19	26	221	5	55	30	89	459
75 and over	0	15	30	18	8	296	47	26	17	62	519
TOTAL	40	927	360	587	883	7,753	903	1,480	608	2,240	15,781

SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970.

the elderly will become more prominent in the future role of the county.

Table 6 illustrates the age structure of McDowell County townships. The townships generally reflect the overall county pattern considered above.

RACIAL CHARACTERISTICS

In 1970, 5.3 percent of population of McDowell County was non-white. The non-white classification includes Negroes, American Indians, Japanese, Chinese and others who do not classify themselves as white. In 1970 the component of the population of McDowell County, which is neither black nor white constitutes only .06 percent of the total population.

Table 7 provides a breakdown of the percentage of nonwhite population for 1950 thru 1970.

TABLE 7
POPULATION BY RACE, McDOWELL COUNTY 1950-1970

	1950	1960	1970
Total Population	25,720	26,742	30,648
Nonwhite Population	1,441	1,376	1,602
Percent Nonwhite	5.6	5.1	5.3

SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1950, 1960, 1970.

EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

McDowell County residents are remaining in school longer now than twenty years ago. Median school years completed for persons over 25 has risen from 7.4 in 1950 to 9.4 in 1970. For the state as a whole the median school years completed for persons over 25 was 7.9 in 1950 and 10.6 in 1970. Educational attainment data for the county's adult population in 1970 are found in Table 8. These data are further broken down by township in Table 9.

Trends in these tables reflect in all probability the relative value of a minimal educational attainment level which was related to functioning satisfactorily in some economic activity of the past, especially in an agricultural society.

TABLE 8
ADULT EDUCATION STATUS
McDOWELL COUNTY
1970

	Male <u>25 Years Old and Over</u>	Females <u>25 Years Old and Older</u>
No. School Years Completed	129	108
Elementary: 1 to 4 yrs.	887	756
5 to 7 yrs.	2,069	1,938
8 yrs.	941	1,121
High School: 1 to 3 yrs.	1,738	2,318
4 yrs.	1,491	1,858
College: 1 to 3 yrs.	394	470
4 yrs. or more	388	383
Percent High School Graduates	28.3	30.3

SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970.

DEPENDENCY INDICES

A dependency index is a ratio between individuals of an area which are considered non-productive and the productive citizenry. The sole determinant of whether an individual is considered productive or non-productive is age. The non-productive citizenry are those ages 0 to 18 years and over 65 years who tend to be dependent on society for special services. The productive population consists of the working sector, the 18 to 65 group. A dependency index is merely a useful social indicator, and it should be noted that there are certainly many productive individuals over 65 and under 18 years.

TABLE 9
ADULT EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT
BY TOWNSHIP, MCDOWELL COUNTY, 1970

Persons 25 & over	Bracket	Crooked Creek	Dysartsville	Glenwood	Higgins	Marion	Montford Cove	Nebo	North Cove	Old Fort
No school completed	0	16	32	0	7	133	10	10	0	29
Elementary: 1-7 years 8 years	38 0	350 122	187 37	263 71	255 70	2638 959	380 91	596 239	216 111	727 362
High School: 1-3 years 4 years	12 0	214 183	55 128	122 138	195 280	2088 1533	244 194	427 242	166 103	533 548
College: 1-3 years 4 years or more	0 0	54 10	36 0	27 22	65 33	472 540	26 10	62 35	27 9	95 112

SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population: 1970.

These three indices are social indicators which have implications as to the amount of facilities and services that must be provided by a governing body. Since these services and facilities are funded by tax dollars, the county must plan to meet current and future demands of the youthful and elderly sectors of the population. Educational and recreational facilities and programs, Social Security, medical facilities for the elderly, Medicare and Medicaid programs, and other social services are a few of the needs generated by the dependent population.

Table 10 reflects the changes in these indices over the past twenty years. Analysis of the table indicates a decreasing trend in dependency; the two trends are: the decreasing youthful index, which has been affected by the birth rate, and an increasing elderly index also noted in the population pyramid. Interpretation of the index is that for each productive resident of McDowell County there is some proportion of a person dependent upon him. For example, in 1970 for each productive individual there was a .77 of a person dependent upon him.

TABLE 10
DEPENDENCY INDICES
McDOWELL COUNTY, 1950-1970

	1950	1960	1970
General dependency index	.86	.84	.77
Youthful dependency index	.74	.70	.61
Elderly dependency index	.11	.14	.17

SOURCE: Division of Community Services.

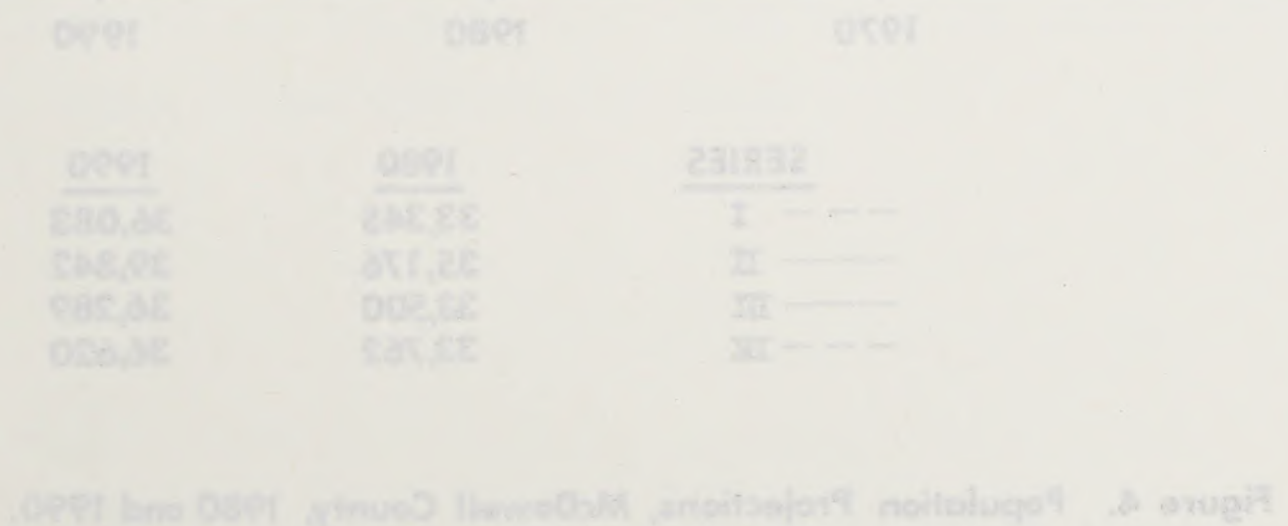
POPULATION PROJECTIONS

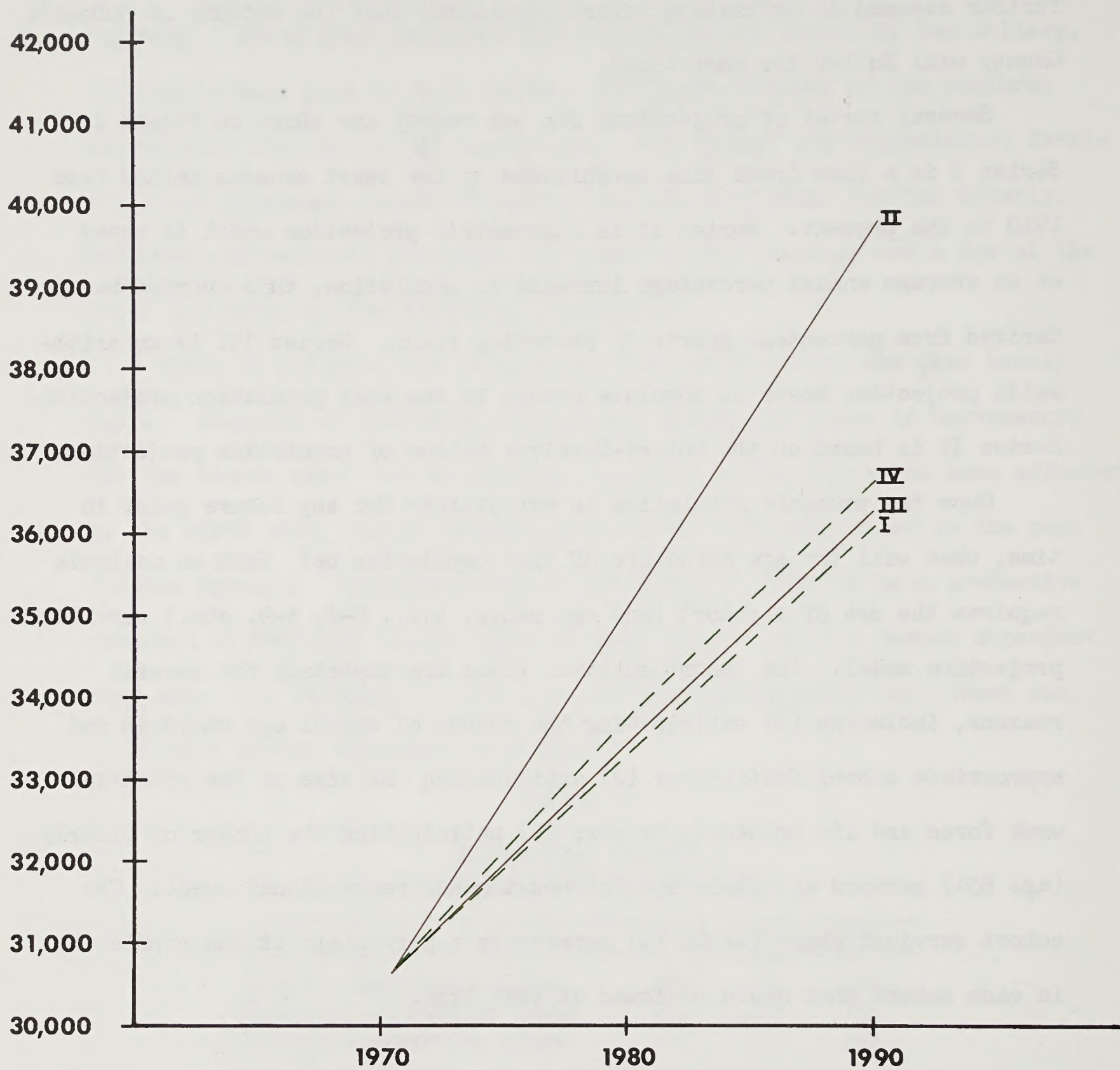
Accurate estimating of future population is always difficult due to the many variables involved. In estimating population, certain assumptions

are usually made. These are that there will be no major war, epidemic, severe economic depression or other catastrophe during the period. It is further assumed in estimating future population that the economy of McDowell County will follow its past trend.

Several series of projections for the county are shown on Figure 4. Series I is a time trend line established by the least squares method from 1910 to the present. Series II is a geometric projection which is based on an average annual percentage increase in population, this average being derived from percentage growth in preceding years. Series III is an arithmetic projection based on absolute change in the past population projection. Series IV is based on the Cohort-Survival Method of population projection.

Once the probable population is established for any future point in time, what will the age structure of that population be? Such an analysis requires the use of a cohort (any age range, i.e., 0-4, 5-9, etc.) survival projection model. The cohort survival rates are important for several reasons, including (1) anticipating the number of school age children and appropriate school facilities; (2) anticipating the size of the potential work force and its breakdown by sex; (3) anticipating the number of elderly (age 65+) persons and their special housing and recreational needs. The cohort survival chart (Table 11) represents a percentage of the population in each cohort that would be found at that time.





SERIES	1980	1990
I	33,345	36,083
II	35,176	39,842
III	33,500	36,289
IV	33,762	36,620

Figure 4. Population Projections, McDowell County, 1980 and 1990.

TABLE 11

PROJECTED POPULATION DISTRIBUTION (PERCENT) BY AGE, RACE, AND SEX
McDOWELL COUNTY, 1980

AGE	TOTAL	WHITE		NONWHITE		TOTAL	TOTAL
		MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE		
0-4	8.4	8.2	8.7	7.7	11.4	11.7	11.1
5-9	7.2	7.1	7.6	6.7	8.2	8.4	7.9
10-14	9.1	9.0	9.4	8.6	10.0	8.4	11.4
15-19	8.2	8.1	8.4	7.9	8.8	9.1	8.7
20-24	6.9	6.7	6.4	7.0	9.7	11.5	8.0
25-29	7.2	7.0	7.2	6.8	10.1	9.7	10.4
30-34	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.0	6.5	8.2	4.9
35-39	6.4	6.5	6.8	6.3	5.1	4.6	5.5
40-44	5.7	5.8	6.0	5.6	4.6	5.5	3.7
45-49	5.7	5.8	5.5	6.0	4.3	3.4	5.0
50-54	5.8	5.9	6.0	5.8	4.7	6.0	3.5
55-59	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.7	4.2	4.2	4.1
60-64	4.9	5.0	4.6	5.3	3.8	2.9	4.7
65-69	4.2	4.3	3.8	4.8	2.3	2.0	2.6
70-74	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.7	3.7	2.0	5.3
75-79	2.1	2.2	1.9	2.5	0.9	1.2	0.6
80-84	1.2	1.2	0.9	1.5	1.4	0.5	2.2
85+	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.0	0.4	0.4	0.3

SOURCE: Division of Community Services.

The percentage rather than absolute numbers is given because the actual population may differ from the projected figure but the percentage distribution may remain valid.

CHAPTER III

INCOME PATTERNS AND TRENDS

One of the most accurate measures for determining the vitality of a community's economy is income. A community with high income levels is more able to finance needed schools and other community facilities. In addition, retail trades and services are more apt to flourish, and the potential for personal, commercial and industrial capital investments is greater. The distribution of income is also important to the local economy. If a few families have most of the community's income, a significant proportion of total income may be lost locally to outside investments and for specialized goods and services.

INCOME LEVELS IN McDOWELL COUNTY

To analyze the County's income levels, three measures of income were selected: disposable income, per capita income, and per household income (see Table 12).

Disposable income is the same as "Sales Management's Survey of Buying Power's net effective buying income," which is total income minus tax payments to Federal, state and local governments. Per capita income is the total amount of effective buying income divided by the total population. Similarly, per household income is total effective buying income divided by the total number of households in the County.

TABLE 12

DISPOSABLE, PER CAPITA, AND PER HOUSEHOLD INCOME
FOR McDOWELL COUNTY

Year	Disposable Income	Per Capita Income	Per Household Income
1960	35,597,000	1,328	5,393
1965	43,457,000	1,575	5,718
1971	85,632,000	2,727	8,827
1972	89,627,000	2,818	8,787

SOURCE: "Sales Management Survey of Buying Power," 1961, 1966, 1972, 1973.

DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME

The distribution of income for families and unrelated individuals is found in Tables 13 and 14. Nearly three-fourths (3/4) of the county families have incomes less than \$10,000; 98.5 percent of the unrelated individuals have less than this amount. There is also a geographic variation in family incomes, with Dysartsville Township having 91.4 percent of the families in that township with incomes less than \$10,000. The percentage of families with incomes below \$10,000 was the lowest in Marion Township (70.3 percent).

POVERTY STATUS

Since 1960 there has been a significant reversal of the poverty trend in McDowell County. The 1960 Census of Population recorded 2,355 families (34.9 percent) in the county with incomes below the poverty threshold (\$3,000). Only 15 percent or 1,242 families, were below the 1970 threshold. The 1970 Census established a "poverty threshold" for each of several family sizes. For a family of a given size, there was established a farm threshold and a non-farm threshold (see Table 15).

Table 16 considers some of the county's poverty statistics. Of the

TABLE 13

DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME BY FAMILIES
McDOWELL COUNTY

1969

	County	T O W N S H I P									
		Brackett	Crooked Creek	Dysartsville	Glenwood	Higgins	Marion	Montford Cove	Nebo	North Cove	Old Fort
Income for family wage earners 14 yrs. and older:											
Total Income	6,359,505	14,910	356,340	123,230	264,870	350,115	3,256,900	332,165	598,490	186,650	875,835
No. of Families	8,271	27	494	221	339	461	4,004	469	774	297	1,185
Family Income Distribution:											
Less than \$1,000	211	5	6	6	0	13	117	19	8	27	10
1,000 - 1,999	490	0	37	32	28	17	210	62	37	16	51
2,000 - 2,999	417	6	28	31	33	22	138	0	41	16	102
3,000 - 3,999	542	0	11	19	23	39	293	10	41	29	77
4,000 - 4,999	688	0	42	14	38	32	323	43	57	44	95
5,000 - 5,999	843	0	67	5	44	62	374	52	95	41	103
6,000 - 6,999	705	0	27	34	48	49	284	66	94	3	100
7,000 - 7,999	852	10	76	25	35	15	416	32	92	14	137
8,000 - 8,999	687	0	37	26	11	49	330	43	55	27	109
9,000 - 9,999	650	0	41	10	11	29	329	47	49	18	116
10,000 - 11,999	1,055	6	100	6	23	71	534	46	93	32	144
12,000 - 14,999	707	0	10	5	15	43	386	23	90	27	108
15,000 - 24,999	340	0	12	8	12	20	210	26	16	3	33
25,000 - 49,999	84	0	0	0	18	0	60	0	6	0	0
50,000 - +	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Family Income Distribution by Percent:											
Less than \$5,000	28.4	40.8	25.1	46.2	36.0	26.7	27.0	28.6	23.8	44.4	28.3
5,000 - 9,999	45.2	37.0	50.2	45.2	44.0	44.3	43.3	51.2	49.7	34.7	47.7
10,000 - 15,000	21.3	22.2	22.3	5.0	11.2	24.7	23.0	14.7	23.6	19.9	21.2
15,000 +	5.1	0	2.4	3.6	8.8	4.3	6.7	5.5	2.9	1.0	2.8

SOURCE: U. S. Census of Population, 1970. Division of Community Services.

TABLE 14

DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME - UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS
McDOWELL COUNTY
1969

Income of Unrelated Individuals	County	Brackett	Crooked Creek	Dysarts- ville	Glenwood	Higgins	Marion	Montford Cove	Nebo	North Cove	Old Fort
Number of Individuals	1,227	6	40	31	11	32	746	73	89	36	163
Less than \$1,000	465	6	13	21	6	10	239	37	57	23	53
1,999	302	0	8	0	5	0	174	30	15	6	64
2,999	120	0	0	6	0	11	84	0	3	7	9
3,999	68	0	6	0	0	0	49	0	3	0	10
4,999	72	0	0	0	0	5	43	6	4	0	14
5,999	94	0	6	4	0	6	65	0	4	0	9
6,999	44	0	7	0	0	0	37	0	0	0	0
7,999	35	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	3	0	4
8,999	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
9,999	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
11,999	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
14,999	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0
24,999	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0
49,999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
50,000+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SOURCE: U. S. Census of Population, 1970.

TABLE 15
POVERTY THRESHOLDS
1970 CENSUS

Family Size	Residence Type	
	Nonfarm	Farm
1-person (unrelated individual)	\$1,840	\$1,569
2-person	2,383	2,012
3-person	2,924	2,480
4-person	3,743	3,195
5-person	4,415	3,769
6-person	4,958	4,244
7-person or more (8 average)	6,101	5,182

SOURCE: U. S. Census, 1970.

TABLE 16

POVERTY STATISTICS
McDOWELL COUNTY
1969

Poor Persons	
Number of Poor Persons	5,097
Percent of Population	16.76
Percent of Poor Who Are Non-White	9.22
Percent of Poor with Farm Residence	2.45
Percent of Poor with Rural Non-Farm Residence	63.03
Percent of Poor with Urban Residence	34.51
Elderly	
Number of Poor Persons Ages 65 and Over	1,303
Percent of All Persons Ages 65 and Over	47.34
Percent of All Poor Persons	25.56
Percent of Non-Poor Persons Who Are Ages 65 and Over	5.72
Pre-School Children	
Number of Poor Children Under Age 6	572
Percent of All Children Under Age 6	17.36
Percent of All Poor Persons	11.22
Percent of Non-Poor Persons Who Are Under Age 6	10.75
Employment	
Number of Employed Poor Male Family Heads Ages 14-64	333
Number of Unemployed Poor Male Family Heads Ages 14-64	11
Number of Poor Male Family Heads Ages 14-64 Who Are Not in the Labor Force	176
Unemployment Rate Among All Poor Male Family Heads Ages 14-64	3.00
Unemployment Rate Among White Poor Male Family Heads Ages 14-64	3.19
Unemployment Rate Among Non-White Poor Male Family Heads Ages 14-64	0.00
Percent of Unemployed Non-Poor	0.23
Labor Force Participation Rate*	
Percent of All Poor Male Family Heads Ages 14-64	67.52
Percent of All Poor White Male Family Heads Ages 14-64	69.07
Percent of All Poor Non-White Male Family Heads Ages 14-64	50.00
Percent of All Non-Poor Male Family Heads Ages 14-64	93.55
Income	
Average Family Income All Poor Families	2,058
Average Family Income Poor White Families	2,052
Average Family Income Non-White Poor Families	2,184
Average Family Income All Families	7,689
Number of Poor Families Receiving Public Assistance	151
Number of Poor Families Receiving Public Assistance As a Percentage of All Poor Families	12.16
Average Public Assistance Payments All Poor Families	758
Poor White Families	758
Poor Negro Families	0.00

*Labor Force participation rate = percent of male family heads ages 14-64 that is employed or is seeking employment.

SOURCE: U. S. Census of Population 1970.

5,097 poor persons, their residential preferences were urban, 34.51 percent; rural non-farm, 63.03 percent; and farm, 2.45 percent.

Examination of the poverty data reveals a decrease in the number of poor; however, a significant number, 1,303 persons, were over 65 years with little or no hope of improving their status through employment opportunities. Public assistance in 1970 was given to 151 families which was 12.16 percent of all families considered poor. The average annual amount paid to those 151 families was \$758. According to the 1970 Census all poor families in McDowell County receiving public assistance were white.

CHAPTER IV

THE LABOR FORCE

The labor force or work force is one of the basic resources of any area. It is composed of all those persons working or actively seeking employment.

AGE AND SEX COMPOSITION

In Table 17, the percent of the population of a given age and sex which is in the McDowell County labor force is compared with that of the state. The table shows that when compared to the state, the average McDowell County worker, both male and female, enters the labor market at an older age and that the McDowell County male, 65 and over, leaves the labor market sooner than the state average for that group. In a survey made in 1972, 40.6 percent¹ of the work force in McDowell County was female. The 1960 Census reported 33.8 percent of the work force as being female. This segment of the work force increased by 6.8 percent between 1960 and 1972.

TABLE 17

COMPARATIVE LABOR FORCE BY AGE AND SEX
(PERCENT IN LABOR FORCE)
McDOWELL COUNTY AND NORTH CAROLINA 1970

	McDowell Co.	North Carolina
MALE: 14 and 15 years	7.6	-
16 and 17 years	33.3	35.2
18 and 19 years	74.3	63.5
20 and 21 years	81.6	78.4
22 to 24 years	93.3	88.2
25 to 34 years	93.8	93.8
35 to 44 years	95.1	93.6
45 to 64 years	79.9	84.3
65 years and over	17.9	27.1

¹

North Carolina Employment Security Commission.

Table 17--Continued

	McDowell Co.	North Carolina
FEMALE: 14 and 15 years	1.0	-
16 and 17 years	12.4	17.8
18 and 19 years	49.6	41.3
20 and 21 years	68.1	56.4
22 to 24 years	61.7	61.4
25 to 34 years	54.1	56.3
35 to 44 years	65.1	60.0
45 to 64 years	47.2	50.7
65 years & over	8.6	9.9

SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1970.

EMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY

Table 18 presents figures for employment by major industrial groups for McDowell County from 1965 to 1972. Manufacturing in 1972 in McDowell County employed 7,530 people or 60.9 percent of the labor force as compared with 32.3 percent for the state as a whole. Of these 7,530 workers, 4,760 were employed by the textile industry, and 1,300 were employed by the furniture industry. In 1960, 56.8 percent¹ of employed persons were employed by the manufacturing industry. In 1972, this figure has risen to 63 percent, an increase of 6.2 percent.

EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION

Table 19 shows the occupation of McDowell County workers in 1970. The largest occupational group is the operative class which accounted for 5,096 persons in 1970. The second largest occupation in 1970 was craftsmen and foremen with 2,074 persons employed. The clerical group accounts for 1,183 persons.

¹ Population and Economy of McDowell County, 1967.

TABLE 18

AVERAGE ANNUAL WORK FORCE ESTIMATES, McDOWELL COUNTY, 1965 - 1972

	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Civilian Work Force	10,680	11,100	11,260	11,300	11,720	11,930	12,000	12,370
Unemployment, Total	420	360	430	360	300	530	430	420
Rate of Unemployment	3.9	3.2	3.8	3.2	2.6	4.4	3.6	3.4
Employment, Total	10,260	10,740	10,830	10,940	11,420	11,400	11,570	11,950
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary	8,860	9,370	9,530	9,690	10,160	10,160	10,310	10,690
Manufacturing	6,090	6,510	6,580	6,670	7,180	7,040	7,060	7,530
Food	40	40	40	50	50	50	40	40
Textiles	3,840	4,260	4,510	4,560	4,730	4,690	4,650	4,760
Apparel	500	480	410	440	480	420	450	460
Lumber and Wood	110	100	100	100	100	80	110	110
Furniture	1,330	1,350	1,260	1,250	1,270	1,170	1,180	1,300
Other Manufacturing	270	280	260	270	550	630	630	860
Nonmanufacturing	2,770	2,860	2,950	3,020	2,980	3,120	3,250	3,160
Construction	160	180	170	150	130	130	150	190
Trans., Comm., & Pub. Util.	170	160	150	140	170	180	170	160
Trade	1,010	1,040	1,110	1,100	1,070	1,130	1,190	1,210
Fin., Ins., & Real Estate	110	120	120	130	130	130	150	140
Service	560	560	580	590	580	610	630	490
Government	750	800	820	910	900	940	960	970
Other Manufacturing	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Other Employment	1,090	1,080	1,030	1,000	1,020	1,010	1,030	1,040
Agricultural Employment	310	290	270	250	240	230	230	220

SOURCE: North Carolina Work Force Estimates, N. C. Employment Security Commission, 1971 and 1973.

TABLE 19
OCCUPATION OF EMPLOYED PERSONS*
McDOWELL COUNTY 1970

Professional and Technical.....	1,014
Farmers and Farm Managers.....	56
Managers and Administrators.....	633
Clerical.....	1,183
Craftsmen and Foremen.....	2,074
Operative, except Transport.....	5,096
Transport Equipment Operatives.....	451
Private Household.....	130
Service.....	685
Farm Labor.....	42
Laborers.....	642
TOTAL.....	12,441

*16 Years Old and Over.

SOURCE: United States Census of Population, 1970.

RECRUITABLE LABOR

Another determinant of the economy of special interest to industry is the estimate of recruitable workers. Table 20 provides an estimate of recruitable labor for McDowell County and five counties adjacent to it. In 1970 there were approximately 2,000 persons available for work (see Table 20). In 1973 however, there were only 250 persons available for work, a decrease of 1,750 in three years.

Table 21 shows the occupation of those persons who were registered for work with the Employment Security Commission in January, 1974. While this gives some indication of those people who are available for work by occupation, it does not give a representative account. Many people seeking employment in professional occupations do not register with the Employment Security Commission.

WORKER MOBILITY

In 1960, 806 of McDowell County's workers were employed outside McDowell County. This figure increased to 1,968 in 1970, an increase of approximately 45 percent (see Table 22). All adjoining counties except Yancey provided employment for McDowell County workers, however, 57 percent of McDowell County's out-commuters or 1,124 were employed in Burke County in 1970.

In contrast, the number of workers coming into McDowell County from other counties to work increased from 740 in 1960 to 1,717 in 1970. The net commuting gain or loss is obtained by subtracting the number of employed residents from the number of persons working. Thus, McDowell had a net commuting loss of 66 workers in 1960 and 251 in 1970.

TABLE 20

*
ESTIMATED RECRUITABLE LABOR FOR INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT IN McDOWELL AND ADJACENT COUNTIES

1970 and 1973

COUNTY	TOTAL	Experienced Mfg. Workers		All Other Experienced Workers		Inexperienced but Refer- able and Trainable		High School Graduates Entering Labor Force Annually	
		Male 1970-1973	Female 1970-1973	Male 1970-1973	Female 1970-1973	Male 1970-1973	Female 1970-1973	Male 1970-1973	Female 1970-1973
McDowell	2000 250	215 14	580 38	270 47	335 47	154 30	450 74	100 81	110 110
Avery	105 235	15 50	15 60	15 30	10 20	25 30	25 45	35 40	40 50
Buncombe	3700 2100	625 250	875 370	250 225	350 255	600 400	1000 600	370 270	393 270
Burke	450 465	0 50	0 40	0 105	0 70	175 100	275 100	125 118	177 163
Mitchell	275 140	35 15	35 15	70 35	35 25	50 25	50 25	33 53	29 51
Rutherford	1220 720	90 55	300 180	165 60	205 125	155 90	305 210	115 90	115 90

*Those persons under 45 years of age who have job skills and are adaptable,
trainable and referable for manufacturing jobs.

SOURCE: Employment Security Commission of North Carolina, 1970 & 1973.

TABLE 21

OCCUPATION OF JOB APPLICANTS RESIDING IN McDOWELL COUNTY
WHO ARE REGISTERED FOR WORK WITH
THE NORTH CAROLINA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION JANUARY, 1974

Major Occupational Group

Professional, Technical & Managerial	13
Clerical & Sales	44
Service	40
Farming, Forestry & Fisheries	4
Processing	14
Machine Trades	43
Bench Work	24
Structural Work	30
Miscellaneous	35
Occupational Group Not Available	41
TOTAL	288

SOURCE: North Carolina Employment Security Commission.

TABLE 22
COMMUTING PATTERNS FOR McDOWELL COUNTY
1960 and 1970

County	1960		1970	
	Out- Commuting	In- Commuting	Out- Commuting	In- Commuting
Avery	9	87	2	137
Buncombe (Asheville City)	438 (---)	105 (---)	291 (239)	135 (---)
Burke	108	71	1,124	67
Caldwell	0	0	23	0
Catawba	0	0	159	(---)
Cherokee	0	0	9	(---)
Cleveland	4	(---)	5	0
Henderson	9	(---)	4	0
Lincoln	0	0	33	0
Mitchell	40	207	21	422
Rutherford	50	117	100	445
Watauga	0	0	0	18
Yancey	0	58	0	287
Greenville (South Carolina)	0	0	22	(---)
Spartanburg (South Carolina)	0	0	9	(---)
Elsewhere	148	95	166	206
TOTAL	806	740	1,968	1,717
Live & Work in McDowell County	8,378	8,378	10,342	10,342
Employed Residents	9,184	XXX	12,310	XXX
Persons Working in McDowell County	XXX	9,118	XXX	12,059
Not Commuting-Gain (+) or Loss (-)		-66		-251

SOURCE: Employment Security Commission of North Carolina, North Carolina Commuting Patterns 1960 & 1970, March, 1974.

CHAPTER V

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture has long been a source of income and basic employment for McDowell County. During the last several decades farm population has been decreasing in the United States, North Carolina and McDowell County. Therefore, it is easy to overlook the importance of this vital segment of the economy. Farmers help other sectors of the economy through their purchases of tractors, machinery, equipment, fuel fertilizer, electricity, steel and thousands of other products.

FARM NUMBERS, LAND IN FARMS AND FARM SIZE

As shown by Table 23, farm numbers and the proportion of land in farms in McDowell County has decreased in recent years. The county contains 278,720 acres of land of which 16.3 percent was farm land in 1964. In 1969, 13.8 percent of the land was in farms. Perhaps the main reason for the decrease has been the abandonment of farming as a way of life as farm operators entered off-farm employment ranks. In many cases, the family continues to live in the rural area but little or no income is produced from farm operations and the acreage involved is no longer considered as agricultural land.

The number of farms decreased from 779 in 1959 to 434 in 1969, an annual average decrease of about 35 farms. The average size of farms in McDowell County increased by 4.9 acres between 1959 and 1969.

During the period of 1959-1969 the number of small farms decreased rapidly (Table 24). Farms below 70 acres and those 180 to 219 acres declined more than 45 percent.

TABLE 23

FARM NUMBERS, LAND IN FARMS, AND AVERAGE
SIZE OF FARMS IN McDOWELL COUNTY

Year	Number of Farms	Land in Farms	Average Size of Farms
1959	779	65,030 Acres	83.5 Acres
1964	498	46,310 Acres	93.0 Acres
1969	434	38,396 Acres	88.4 Acres

SOURCE: U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1959, 1964, 1969.

TABLE 24

DISTRIBUTION OF FARMS BY SIZE
McDOWELL COUNTY

	1959	1964	1969
All Farms	779	498	434
Less than 10 Acres	43	21	9
10 to 49 Acres	352	194	202
50 to 69 Acres	102	76	37
70 to 99 Acres	88	55	56
100 to 139 Acres	72	68	50
140 to 179 Acres	40	30	30
180 to 219 Acres	30	16	12
220 to 259 Acres	14	4	8
260 to 499 Acres	26	26	24
500 to 999 Acres	9	6	6
1,000 Acres or More	3	2	0

SOURCE: U. S. Census of Agriculture, 1959, 1964, 1969.

FARM INCOME AND SALES

In 1972 farmers received \$2,011,000 income from sales of farm products and government payments. Livestock and livestock products lead in income totaling \$1,181,000. Table 25 gives income from selected farm products for 1972.

Despite the decline in the number of farms, farm operators, and acreage in farms, progress in agricultural technology has made possible an increase in the market value of all farm products sold in McDowell County. As shown in Table 26, the market value of all agricultural products sold increase from \$728,606 in 1959 to \$1,072,668 in 1969.

TABLE 25
CASH RECEIPTS AND GOVERNMENTAL PAYMENTS
FROM FARM MARKETING
McDOWELL COUNTY, 1972

Source	1972
Total Receipts	\$2,011,000
Crops	710,000
Livestock & Livestock Products	1,181,000
Governmental Payments	120,000
Tobacco	19,000
Corn	65,000
Soybeans	5,000
Peanuts	-----
Cotton and Cottonseed	-----
Other Field Crops	13,000
Vegetable, Fruits, Nuts, Berries	263,000
Farm Forest, Greenhouses and Nursery	345,000
Hogs	325,000
Cattle and Calves	190,000
Milk	290,000
Broilers	80,000
Eggs	100,000
Turkeys	-----
Other Livestock and Poultry	216,000

SOURCE: N. C. Crop Reporting Service, 1973.

TABLE 26
FARM INCOME AND SALES
McDOWELL COUNTY

	1959	1964	1969
Market value of all agricultural products sold	\$728,606	\$753,235	\$1,072,668
Average per farm	973	1,513	2,471
Crops including nursery products and hay	242,897	251,432	209,079
Forest products	64,528	29,712	45,508
Livestock, poultry and their products	485,709	472,095	818,081

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1954, 1964 and 1969.

CHAPTER VI

FORESTRY

Approximately 82 percent of the total land area of McDowell County was in forest in 1973 according to the "Forest Survey." Table 27 below shows other pertinent forest data taken from this survey. This is the most recent survey information which is currently available. However, the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station is currently doing a survey which should be published in the fall of this year.

TABLE 27

FOREST FACTS
McDOWELL COUNTY
1963

Total Land Area	282,900
Forest Land	232,600
Total Commercial Forest	230,900
Public Forest	65,800
Private Forest Land	165,100
Private Farm Forest	17,400
Private Non-Farm Forest	147,700

SOURCE: Forest Facts: Western North
Carolina Summary.

TIMBER PRODUCTION

Estimates by the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station in 1963 showed that the county contained 570.9 million board feet of sawtimber of which 129 million board feet were softwoods and 441.9 million board feet were hardwoods. In addition, the county contained 3,441 thousand cords of cordwood including cull trees.

TIMBER SALES

Approximately 8,414 thousand board feet of sawtimber and 23,262 cords of pulpwood were marketed in the county in 1969. In 1969, the value of sawtimber delivered to the mill or plant totaled \$395,540; pulpwood, \$385,150; and other forest products, \$856,740.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL

Table 28 shows total employment in wood using industry in the county for 1964 and 1970. The number of sawmills declined from 16 in 1964 to 5 in 1970. The number of workers also declined during this period. Employed in furniture, pulp and paper mills increased during the period as did the number of industries in this classification. The annual payroll for wood-using industries in 1970 in the County was \$6,798,218, which represented 18.37 percent of total manufacturing wages paid in the County.

TABLE 28

EMPLOYMENT IN WOOD-USING
INDUSTRIES, McDOWELL COUNTY
1964 and 1970

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1970</u>
Number of Sawmills	16	5
Number of Workers	131	88
Number of Furniture, Pulp, and Paper Mills	3	9
Number of Workers	1,231	1,391
TOTAL WORKERS	1,362	1,479

SOURCE: Forest Facts for Western North Carolina.

DISEASES AND INSECTS

White pine blister rust has been a threat to white pines in North Carolina for over 25 years. Diligent control efforts have consistently reduced losses.

Oak wilt has been known in the state for twenty years and has declined in the past ten.

The balsam woolly aphid continues to infest both forest and ornamental fraser firs and mortality of individual trees continues.

Southern pine beetle continues to be the worst enemy of southern pines. An epidemic which began in 1967 continues to kill pines in Cherokee, Graham and Swain counties. In addition to economic losses, watershed and recreation values suffer. Salvage of infested trees is encouraged, thereby helping reduce beetle population.

The gypsy moth looms on the horizon and is largely an unknown factor. If the gypsy moth moves into the area with same impact as the insect has exhibited farther north, the effect could be very serious both locally and generally. The appearance and spread of this pest should be of serious concern.

CHRISTMAS TREES

This enterprise has shown rapid expansion in recent years and economic value will increase sharply as trees now in plantations are marketed. As of 1970, there were ten acres planted in Christmas trees in McDowell County. The value of trees when marketed, is estimated at \$26,625.

REFORESTATION

In 1971, 14,500 acres were classified as being in need of reforestation. These are open lands best suited to trees or depleted forest areas stocked with undesirable species. Reforestation for the years 1966 to 1970 totaled 813 acres.

FOREST FIRES

The average number of acres burned in the five-year period of 1964-68 was 136. This is below the average acreage burned (431) during the preceding five-year period. The number of fires, however, increased by thirty percent.

FUTURE FORESTRY

The forests occupy much of the County's land and are responsible for much of the industrial employment. In addition, the forests are vital to the development of tourism, as they provide both scenery and widespread recreational opportunities. Continued protection, planting and improved management can make forests more productive and increasingly important to the local economy.

CHAPTER VII

WHOLESALE TRADE

The chief function of establishments engaged in wholesale trade is selling goods to trading establishments, or to industrial, commercial, and professional users. In addition to selling, functions frequently performed by wholesale establishments include: maintaining inventories of goods; extending credit; physically assembling, sorting and grading goods in large lots; breaking bulk and redistributing in smaller lots; delivery; refrigeration; and various types of promotion.¹

Wholesale trade establishments may be grouped into five major types of operation categories as follow:²

- (1) Merchant wholesalers - establishments engaged in buying and selling merchandise on their own account.
- (2) Manufacturers' sales branches and sales offices - establishments maintained apart from producing plants for selling or marketing their companies' products at wholesale.
- (3) Petroleum bulk stations and terminals - establishments engaged in marketing gasoline, kerosene and other fuel oils, liquified petroleum gases and other bulk petroleum products.
- (4) Merchandise agents and brokers - establishments whose operators are in business for themselves and are engaged in selling or buying goods for others.
- (5) Assembler of farm products - establishments engaged in purchasing

¹ U. S. Bureau of the Budget, Standard Industrial Classification Manual, 1957.

² U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Business, Wholesale Trade, 1963.

from farmers and assembling and marketing farm products in

in local producing markets and in cities of productive regions.

A substantial amount of data is available for Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA) and for counties with 100 or more wholesale establishments. Unfortunately, the data for McDowell County is extremely limited. In the Census of Business, Wholesale Trade - the source of information - there are only two types of operating groups, merchant wholesalers and other operating types. The latter includes categories numbers 2-5 on the previous page.

The number of wholesale establishments in McDowell County was seventeen (17) in 1967. From Table 29 it can be seen that the total number of wholesale establishments declined between 1963 and 1967 by four establishments. The dollar amount of sales, payroll and the number of employees, however, has increased during this same time period.

TABLE 29

WHOLESALE TRADE McDOWELL COUNTY 1963-1967

ESTABLISHMENTS	1963	1967
Total Wholesalers	21	17
Merchant Wholesalers	12	10
Other Operating Types	9	7
Sales (in thousands of dollars)	\$23,347	\$35,008
Payroll (in thousands of dollars)	999	324
Total Paid Employees	221	258

SOURCE: U. S. Census of Business, 1963 and 1967.

CHAPTER VIII

RETAIL TRADE

Retail trade include establishments engaged in selling merchandise for personal, household, or farm consumption and rendering services incidental to the sale of the goods. Some of the important characteristics of a retail trade establishment are: the establishment is engaged in activities to attract the general public to buy; it buys or receives merchandise as well as sells; it may process its products, but such processing is incidental to selling; and the establishment is considered "retail" by the trade. Most eating and drinking places are classified as retail trade; whereas, farmers who sell only their own produce from the point of production are not classified as retailers.¹

RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS, EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL

The number of retail establishments by kind of business for McDowell County is shown in Table 30. Total number of establishments increased from 1963 to 1967 from 228 to 256. The most significant area increases were in the miscellaneous retail stores and gasoline service stations.

The number of employees and payroll showed a slight increase from 1963 to 1967. (see Table 29).

RETAIL SALES

Since 1960, retail sales in McDowell County have shown a steady upward trend. This increase amounted to \$47,258,794 or approximately 210 percent between 1960 and 1971. Retail sales figures since 1960 are shown in Table 32.

¹ U. S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Retail Trade, 1963.

The major retail sales contributing sectors are found in Table 33. The leading sectors in retail were food and automotive. Among these sectors, food is a basic requirement and its sales increased 46.2 percent more than the state's percentage increase. Between 1965 and 1972, the greatest percent increases in sales were in the unclassified group (204.9 percent) and in building materials (188.3 percent). Both groups increased at a higher rate than North Carolina which increased 82.6 percent and 89.2 percent respectively in these two sectors.

TABLE 30

RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS McDOWELL COUNTY
1963 and 1967

	Number of Establishments 1963	Number of Establishments 1967
Lumber, Building Materials		
Hardware, Farm Equipment Dealers	10	9
General Merchandise Group Stores	7	10
Food Stores	63	53
Automotive Dealers	19	21
Gasoline Service Stations	32	49
Apparel and Accessory	12	16
Furniture, Home Furnishings, Equipment Stores	17	17
Eating & Drinking Places	27	25
Drug Stores & Proprietary Stores	6	9
Miscellaneous Retail Stores	28	35
Nonstore Retailers	7	12
County Retail Trade - TOTAL	228	256

SOURCE: Census of Business 1963 and 1967.

TABLE 31

PAYROLL AND EMPLOYMENT IN
RETAIL TRADE, McDOWELL COUNTY 1963 AND 1967

	1963	1967
Payroll* (in thousands of dollars)	2,230	2,990
Number of Employees	815	888

*Entire Year

SOURCE: U. S. Census of Business, 1963 and 1967.

TABLE 32

GROWTH OF RETAIL SALES
McDOWELL COUNTY 1960-1971

Year	Retail Sales
1960-1961	\$22,524,338
1961-1962	23,470,439
1962-1963	26,361,636
1963-1964	27,157,782
1964-1965	28,324,263
1965-1966	31,701,310
1966-1967	33,320,362
1967-1968	35,602,537
1968-1969	38,972,893
1969-1970	42,228,766
1970-1971	46,115,019
1971-1972	54,249,460

SOURCE: North Carolina Department of
Revenue.

TABLE 33

RETAIL SALES BY SECTOR
MCDOWELL COUNTY
1964-65 and 1971-72

Business Group	Fiscal 1964-1965	Fiscal 1971-1972	Dollar Change 1965-1972	Percentage Change 1965-1972	N. C. Percentage Change 1965-1972
1% Retail Sales	1,040,012	2,420,862	1,380,850	132.8	49.7
1½% Auto and Planes	4,447,819	9,103,357	4,655,538	104.7	109.9
Apparel	1,146,242	2,160,122	1,013,880	88.5	73.3
Automotive	7,324,516	12,948,652	5,624,136	76.8	82.3
Food	7,794,474	18,394,409	10,599,935	136.0	89.8
Furniture	2,374,518	2,527,002	152,484	.7	56.5
General Merchandise	4,084,173	8,596,201	4,512,028	110.5	105.9
Building Materials	2,528,926	7,291,777	4,762,851	188.3	89.2
Unclassified Group	2,061,827	6,287,486	4,225,659	204.9	82.6

SOURCE: Statistical Service Section, Department of Administration, 1973.

CHAPTER IX

SELECTED SERVICES & RELATED PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

It is difficult to analyze the changes that have occurred in services because of the scarcity of data and lack of comparability of data that are available. Through the use of the U. S. Census of Population, Census of Selected Services and County Business Patterns, a fairly complete picture may be pieced together. There will remain, however, many blurred aspects which can hardly be analyzed at all.

Types of Services:

- (a) Hotels, motels, and other lodging places.
- (b) Personal services -- establishments engaged in providing services generally involving the care of the person and his apparel, such as laundries and dry cleaners, barber and beauty shops, and shoe repair shops.
- (c) Miscellaneous business services -- establishments performing housekeeping functions for business buildings as well as such activities as advertising, credit investigation and reporting, duplicating and addressing, worker placement, research and testing and business consulting.
- (d) Automobile repair and service -- establishments furnishing automobile repair, rental and parking and storage.
- (e) Miscellaneous repair services -- includes repair of electrical appliances, radio and television, clock and jewelry and furniture.
- (f) Motion pictures and other amusement and recreation services.
- (g) Medical and other health services.

- (h) Legal services.
- (i) Educational services.
- (j) Nonprofit membership organizations -- business and professional associations, labor unions, religious and charitable organizations, and civic, social, and fraternal organizations.
- (k) Private households -- private households which employ workers who serve on or about the premises in occupations usually considered as domestic service. Includes, cooks, maids, butlers, gardeners and caretakers, and personal secretaries.
- (l) Miscellaneous services -- includes establishments engaged in performing services such as those rendered by engineers, architects, and accountants.

NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS

Table 34 shows a number of establishments for McDowell County by type of service for 1963 and 1967. Among the kinds of business groups, the personal services group had the majority of service establishments in the county. The number of personal service establishments increased 25 percent between 1963 and 1967. Throughout the country, counties with a small urban area tend to concentrate more in personal services such as laundry and dry cleaning and barber and beauty shops, while counties with heavily populated urban centers have more establishments of hotel and motels, motion pictures, and business services.

RECEIPTS AND PAYROLL

Receipts of selected services in McDowell County declined by \$1,200,000 between 1963 and 1967. The total payroll per year, however, increased by

\$85,000 during the same time period. This increase reflects both more employees and higher wages (see Table 35).

TABLE 34

SELECTED SERVICES
NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS BY KIND OF BUSINESS
McDOWELL COUNTY, 1963 AND 1967

	1963	1967
All Establishments	102	117
Hotels, Motels, Tourist Courts, Camps	7	10
Personal Services	56	70
Miscellaneous Business Activities	4	3
Auto Repair, Auto Service & Garages	17	14
Miscellaneous Repair Service	10	14
Motion Pictures	1	2
Other Amusement, Recreation Services	7	4

SOURCE: U. S. Census of Business, 1963 and 1967.

TABLE 35

RECEIPTS AND PAYROLL SELECTED SERVICES
McDOWELL COUNTY
1963 AND 1967

	1963	1967
Total Receipts	\$1,543,000	\$1,421,000
Total Payroll	309,000	394,000

SOURCE: U. S. Census of Business.

CONSTRUCTION

Employment in the construction industry increased from 568 in 1960 to 716 in 1970. This has resulted from the increase in the demand for new housing and public buildings plus the necessary maintenance repairs. There is visible evidence of construction activity throughout the area.

According to data from County Business Patterns, there were 32 contract construction establishments in McDowell County in 1971.

MINING

The term "mining" is used in the broad sense to cover establishments engaged in quarrying, well operation, milling and other preparation needed to render the materials marketable. The main mining activities in McDowell County are sand and gravel operations. According to the 1963 Census of Mineral Industries there are a total of six mineral operations in the county. In 1971, County Business Patterns reported only one industry in the mining category. According to the 1970 Census of Population, 33 persons were employed by the mining industry in McDowell County.

The U. S. Bureau of Mines list the value of mineral production in McDowell County as 113,000 dollars in 1969 and 489,000 dollars in 1971.

TOURISM

Tourism is the greatest single industry in Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee. Travelers expenditures¹ in McDowell County amounted to \$3,620,000 in 1972. As shown in Table 36, travelers expenditures were less in McDowell County than in the surrounding counties of Burke, Buncombe,

¹ The term travelers includes persons going outside their daily commuting zones. The estimates include persons traveling for business, pleasure, and personal affairs. Residents traveling in state on trips away from home are included in the total, along with out-of-state visitors.

Rutherford. Since 1965, traveler expenditures have increased in McDowell County by approximately 70 percent.

The percent increase for the state was 65 percent during the same time period.

TABLE 36

TOTAL TRAVELER'S EXPENDITURES
McDOWELL AND SURROUNDING
COUNTIES
(IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

County	1965	1970	1971	1972
McDowell	2,125	3,150	3,320	3,620
Avery	719	2,590	2,730	2,970
Mitchell	1,117	1,420	1,500	1,630
Yancey	646	1,040	1,100	1,200
Burke	3,710	5,690	5,990	6,520
Buncombe	35,164	49,000	51,610	56,220
Rutherford	4,633	5,710	6,010	6,500

SOURCE: North Carolina Department of Natural and
Economic Resources, Division of Travel and
Promotion.

CHAPTER X

MANUFACTURING

"Every community in the United States purchases goods and services from outside its borders. A community pays for these goods and services by specializing in the production of certain goods and services which it sells outside the community. The goods and services sold outside the community play a key role in determining the economic health of the community."¹

The quotation from Charles Tiebout, Professor of Economics, University of Washington, lays the foundation for the study of manufacturing in McDowell County. Those manufacturers who sell their finished product outside the community add to the economic well being by bringing in "new" or "outside" money into the county. Without these "basic" industries the economy of McDowell County would have to rely upon the constant recirculation of money within the county provided by the "non-basic" segment of the economy. Some of the manufacturers may be classified as both basic and non-basic in that a portion of their product remains in the county while the other portion leaves the county, i.e., exported. If all manufacturing in the county were of a non-basic type the economy would tend to stagnate as no new money would be introduced into the county. The industrial economy of McDowell County is essentially composed of basic industries, having only two or three industries of a non-basic character. McDowell County is fortunate in that it has several large basic industries. Baxter Laboratories is the largest employer of persons in manufacturing in the county.

¹ Tiebout, Charles M. The Community Economic Base Study, Committee for Economic Development, December, 1962.

MANUFACTURING FIRMS

Table 37 contains a listing of manufacturing firms in McDowell County showing the type of economic enterprise and the general range of employment.

EMPLOYMENT

There were 7,300 people employed by manufacturing firms in McDowell County in 1972 according to the U. S. Census of Manufacturers. Of this number 6,600 were production workers. Since 1963, employment in manufacturing has increased by 42 percent¹ (see Table 38).

VALUE ADDED BY MANUFACTURE

Table 39 compares the relative economic importance of manufacturing in McDowell County with that of the state. Value added is obtained by subtracting the cost of raw materials, parts, components, supplies, fuels, goods purchased for resale, and contract work from the value of the shipments. Thus, it measures in dollars the value which the manufacturer adds to the product. In terms of total value added, the North Carolina percentage gain was greater than that for McDowell County.

MANUFACTURING WAGES

In 1964, average annual weekly earnings in manufacturing in McDowell County were only \$75.40. This was 94.3 percent of the state wage. The average weekly earnings for the first quarter of 1973 for persons employed in manufacturing firms was \$123.10. This average for the state was \$130.03. Thus, McDowell County's average weekly wage has risen to 94.7 percent of the state's weekly wage.

The concentration of area manufacturing employment in the traditionally heavy labor-using sectors has kept value added by manufacture low. Since

¹ Based on North Carolina Employment Security Commission figures.

wages are related to value added, the wage level has also remained low.

Recently, the manufacturing industries locating in McDowell County have been more diversified and the value added by manufacture has been higher.

Thus, the average wage rate has increased slightly relative to the average for the state.

TABLE 37

MANUFACTURING FIRMS
McDOWELL COUNTY
1974

Name of Company	Product	Yr. Established in County	Employees M F	
Twenty-Five or More Employees:				
Air Preheater Co.	Metal Fabrication	1965	359	7
American Thread Co.	Thread	1952	450	450
Armored Garments, Inc.	Dungarees	1964	15	135
Clinchfield Mfg. Co.	Cloth	1913	444	306
Cohama Knitting Mills	Cloth	1947	35	38
Collins & Aikman Corp.	Automotive Carpet	1966	210	140
Cross Cotton Mills	Cloth	1916	240	160
Drexel Furniture Co.	Furniture	1932	499	88
Etta Paper Box Co.	Paper Boxes	1929	47	34
McPar Hosiery Mill	Hosiery	1929	12	32
Marion Mfg. Co.	Cloth	1910	367	222
Old Fort Finishing	Finishes Cloth	1948	554	257
Broyhill Furniture Co.	Furniture	1941	305	45
Pine Valley Furniture	Furniture	1959	134	73
Parker Hosiery Mill	Men's Hosiery	1946	30	120
R. L. James Hosiery	Men's Hosiery	1934	9	51
Smokey Mtn. Hosiery	Men's & Girls' Hosiery		20	57
International Musical Instruments, Inc.	Pianos	1965	45	35
Elizabeth James Knitting	Ladies Hosiery	1916	8	50
Hensley Hosiery Mill	Men's & Girl's Hosiery	1960	5	30
Washington Mills	Men's & Boy's Sportswear	1960	40	180
Woodlawn Mfg. Co.	Lumber	1947	90	15
Marion Machine Co.	High Grade Metal Repair & New Machinery	1935	41	0
Baxter Laboratories	Pharmaceutical Supplies	1971	385	715
Henredon Furniture	Furniture	1971	200	100

Less than Twenty-Five Employees:

Bost Bakery, Inc.	Bakery Products	1960		
Clevenger Knitting Mills	Unfinished Men's Hosiery			
	Nylon Yarns	1968		
McDowell Cement Products, Inc.	Concrete Products	1950		
C.B.M. Knitting Mills	Fabrics	1971		
Garner Brothers	Lumber	1968		
McDowell News	Newspaper	1923		
Hollifield Hosiery Mills	Men's Hosiery	1964		
Marion Packing & Slaughtering Co.	Meats, Wholesale			
	Meats & Cattle	1957		
Marshall Lumber Co.	Lumber, Hardware	NA		
McCurry Hosiery Mills	Men's Hosiery & Yarn	1965		
Pleasant Gardens Machine, Inc.	Job Shop	NA		
Seagle Lumber Co.	Lumber, Cross Ties	NA		
Pisgah Yarn & Dyeing Co.	Yarns	NA		
Southern Industries, Inc.	Paper Tubes	1951		
W. W. Wall Co.	Cloth & Children's Garments	1961		

NA = Not Available

Source: North Carolina Department of Natural and Economic Resources, Division of
Commerce and Industry

TABLE 38

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT
McDOWELL COUNTY
1963-1972

1963	5,280
1964	5,760
1965	6,090
1966	6,510
1967	6,580
1968	6,670
1969	7,180
1970	7,040
1971	7,060
1972	7,530 (7,300) ¹

¹ U. S. Census of Manufacturing, 1972
(Preliminary Report).

SOURCE: North Carolina Employment Security
Commission.

TABLE 39

VALUE ADDED BY MANUFACTURING
McDOWELL COUNTY AND NORTH CAROLINA

	VALUE ADDED
<u>McDowell County</u>	
1958	32,391,000
1963	45,600,000
1967	64,200,000
1972*	95,800,000
Percent Increase 1958-1972	195.8%
<u>North Carolina</u>	
1958	3,095,677,000
1963	4,566,547,000
1967	6,606,500,000
1972	11,023,000,000
Percent Increase 1958-1972	256.6%

*No adjustment for price level has not been made in the 1972 figures.

SOURCE: U. S. Census of Manufacturers, 1958, 1963 and Preliminary Report, 1972.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Manufacturing: McDowell County should be extremely selective in its efforts to attract industry. Efforts should be concentrated upon high wage, high technology industries that do not create an adverse environmental impact.
2. Tourism: The County should either assign the promotion of tourist development to an existing agency or establish an office to undertake this task. McDowell County has spectacular mountain scenery, the Blue Ridge Parkway, Pisgah National Forest, Lake James, and many other potential attractions. To promote tourism the County needs to widely advertise itself and encourage the development of service facilities such as motels and restaurants.
3. Scenic Beauty: Regulations are needed to protect the County's scenic beauty which is one of its greatest assets. A Community Appearance Commission should be established and a beautification program initiated by the County.
4. Agriculture and Forestry: The County should continue to provide assistance to the Agriculture Extension Program and other agencies to land owners advising them of the best use of land and soils for forestry and agriculture purposes. The major goal in agriculture should be the development of efficient profitable farms yielding a good income for those who choose to stay in full-time farming.
5. Education: The County should develop programs designed to encourage and motivate all citizens especially the young to utilize educational opportunities which are available to them in order to qualify them for employment.

6. Recreation and Cultural Activities: In order to provide for the citizen's needs for recreation and cultural activities, McDowell County should promote the development of both public and private of these activities in suitable locations throughout the County.

7. Development Standards: Standards for future development should be established throughout the County. Without adequate standards, governmental expenditures will have to increase to provide for upgrading of substandard areas. Low quality development also reduces the total tax base of the County.

8. Goals and Policies: McDowell County should take an active role in shaping all aspects of its future. This can only be accomplished by the establishment of comprehensive goals and policies on which to base future decisions. The County should identify and examine in great detail the needs of its citizens. Existing goals and policies should be evaluated in view of these findings as well as other available data. The elected officials of the County should then express in writing the County's goals and resulting policies. An integrated policy plan should be developed which includes the policies of the many units of organization that comprise the governance of McDowell County.

